

**CITY OF MILWAUKIE
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
DECEMBER 3, 1996**

Mayor Lomnicki called the work session to order at 5:00 p.m. in the second floor conference room in City Hall.

Present were Councilmembers Farley, Schreiber, and Kappa; School Board Members Diane West, Carolyn Stormont; School Superintendent Ron Naso; Deputy School Superintendent Ken Noah; Ardenwald Neighborhood representatives Sharon Van Horn and Nina Rondeau; Dan Bartlett, City Manager and Charlene Richards, Assistant to the City Manager; and Linda Mullen, Neighborhood Services Coordinator.

School Trip Safety Program

Mayor Lomnicki discussed the history and the importance of the School Trip Safety Program to the City of Milwaukie. He indicated there were areas of joint concern between the School Board and the City Council regarding this program.

Bartlett made the staff presentation. He discussed Council's response to pedestrian safety concerns in the Ardenwald area and the evolution of the speed hump pilot project into a Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP). He said the importance of including the School Trip Safety Program projects in the NTMP became apparent. He reviewed a Gantt Chart prepared to show the timelines and relationships of the NTMP.

The first task, developing NTMP policy, goals, and objectives, is scheduled for completion about March 1997. Work is currently underway to develop speed hump criteria that includes a rating mechanism. He discussed the procedures for placement of the banners and the SMART trailer, enhanced enforcement, and potential use of photoradar. Officer Friendly is completing his school visits to educate students on pedestrian safety.

Bartlett explained Ardenwald School was the first to complete its safety program. The Task Force identified funding for an adult crossing guard program as a very high priority. Some Group 1 elements, including traffic safety education and installation of flashing yellow beacons, are completed. The City is waiting for federal government approval to install strong yellow-green signs. Group 2 elements, including traffic calming devices, will require application of the NTMP process.

Councilmember Kappa asked if right-of-way and walking path cleanup was being accomplished. **Bartlett** said the City is working through code enforcement and the neighborhoods to maintain the walkways.

Bartlett discussed the progress in the Hector Campbell area that included clear sign definition at both ends of the school zone and clearing obstructions. The City is working on speed enforcement and plans to work with the School District to improve the student drop-off area. City staff is working to install flashing yellow beacons at Linwood by June and is looking to the School District to help with bike path cleanup. Milwaukie Elementary discussed restricted parking. He discussed restricted parking options on 27th during Milwaukie Elementary school hours.

Storment asked if residents had voiced any concerns with restricted parking. **Bartlett** said engineering has talked to the residents, and the owner of the apartment building was generally supportive.

Bartlett discussed the recommendation of one-way, west-bound traffic on Willard. There are several projects that would need to be worked into the CIP and prioritized for the construction season.

Bartlett provided correspondence from Brenda Kerr regarding student pedestrian safety on Lake Road near Rowe Jr. High.

Naso referred to item 81 -- one-way traffic westbound on Willard. He asked if there was a sense of how many cars turn left on 27th. He expressed concern with inexperienced drivers having to make left-hand turns. **Bartlett** said engineering would supply traffic study data before any decisions were made. He discussed the possibility of the lower end of Willard remaining two-way.

Naso suggested a discussion of item #41 -- Ardenwald's request for funding for an adult crossing guard program.

Rondeau said the two grant applications she made had been denied. She had, however, received information on other opportunities.

West asked how the program would be structured and how much costs would be involved. **Rondeau** said the Ardenwald program with three guards and one coordinator was estimated to cost \$8,000 annually.

Naso asked if the proposal was for three separate locations on 32nd Avenue. **Rondeau** said that was correct. The guards would assist student twice daily at Olsen, Wake, and Roswell, and the coordinator would act as backup.

Councilmember Kappa said some serious problems have been identified in both the Ardenwald and Lake Road areas. He felt the City and the School District could work together on certain elements.

West asked if any state funds were available for a crossing guard program. **Naso** responded he did not believe so.

Councilmember Schreiber commented the City became involved when the areas of school bus service decreased. She felt there should have been some kind of transition and added the School Board and City Council need to think through this problem together.

Rondeau pointed out that some school districts, such as Salem and Beaverton, fund such programs.

Noah said the change came about when the state modified both the standard radius for bus service and the related reimbursements.

Bartlett said major improvements, including sidewalks, were made to 32nd Avenue the year before the bus service was withdrawn. With this, were some related problems, and City staff is looking at a variety of traffic calming options. **Mayor Lomnicki** commented the City of Portland has done a lot of work re-striping its streets to shrink the travel lanes and make them seem narrower

Naso questioned the need for three crossing sites on a street that has sidewalks on both sides.

Van Horn said many of the children coming from the low-income housing area use the walking path since it is the shortest route. She added there was discussion of combining two of the crossings since they are so near each other.

Mayor Lomnicki said the City is working to educate children and parents, but there are limitations. The next step may be an adult to monitor the situation and remind the parent or child of safety training.

Naso said he was concerned about the process of hiring people who would work only 30 - 40 minutes twice per day. He felt it was more a convenience rather than a dollar issue.

Rondeau said people had been working on a volunteer basis, and she felt paying adult crossing guards would be added incentive.

West agreed she was concerned about locating people who would work those blocks of time. **Rondeau** said she believed people were concerned enough about safety to work the necessary times.

Councilmember Kappa said he heard some concern about where to find the necessary labor force. **Naso** responded he was concerned about consistency and the potential for a personnel “nightmare.” He asked if there was an advantage to the volunteer piece since the people have a vested interest that would not be there if it were a job.

Councilmember Farley suggested grandparents as crossing guards, and **Councilmember Schreiber** suggested Neighborhood District Association members.

Councilmember Schreiber said the City has supplied many things to make the program work. **Naso** said he felt children crossing the street was an area of mutual responsibility.

Mayor Lomnicki said he understood Ardenwald School had virtually no school bus service.

Councilmember Farley said the problem is the children will take the shortest possible route to school. **Bartlett** said traffic engineering is considering several options to change travel patterns.

Councilmember Kappa suggested working with community retirees on a crossing guard program. **Bartlett** discussed the use of community seniors in similar duties.

West asked Rondeau if she acted as the volunteer coordinator and stated she was more comfortable with the concept of the District helping to recruit volunteers.

Storment suggested looking at the volunteer efforts in more detail. **Rondeau** said Ardenwald School was supportive of her efforts to get commitments from the parents.

West suggested devoting more staff time to the effort in the Ardenwald area. **Rondeau** said she called her volunteer list on a weekly basis. She indicated making these phone calls was not the problem; it was getting volunteers in the first place.

Councilmember Schreiber felt there were people in her age group who would probably take on tasks to make a small amount of money, and there would be a strong commitment.

Naso said we need to ask if the cost of the program would be split between the City and the School District.

Councilmember Kappa said he felt the two managers should discuss the issues and let each other know how the respective boards feel. He urged partnerships on issues to use funds effectively.

Naso commented the City is developing a plan that involves numerous issues.

Bartlett said he felt there were three sites that would need adult crossing guards: 32nd Avenue, Lake Road, and Stanley Avenue. We need to be aware of the potential size of the program and how implementation of a solution in one location will impact another.

The group discussed safety issues at other schools in the district.

Mayor Lomnicki said the School District needs to work with multiple governments to deal with safety problems. From his standpoint, he felt the personnel issue was the concern of the School District. Technological improvements can go only so far without adult supervision and an overall spirit of cooperation.

Naso said he felt there were other options, such as shuttle service to the housing area on 32nd Avenue, to be considered in addition to long-range cost projections.

Noah said there would be no reimbursement unless the district qualified for an exception under state rules.

Storment said the cities have other types of resources than School Districts. She also felt there should be a discussion of how Measure 47 will impact both the City and District.

Bartlett said Clackamas County called a meeting of all taxing districts on December 12. It may be that all of the districts will be put together and each county will have to develop its own coordinating plan.

Naso said he and Bartlett would look at the Ardenwald piece and other joint issues. **Bartlett** said Council determined this had top priority as a livability issue.

Mayor Lomnicki said the entire neighborhood program was designed around the City's elementary schools. We are trying to be "smart" government and combine resources to make the community more livable.

Naso said he would also like to talk about the future of the swimming pool and the playing fields around the schools.

West said she appreciated the work being done by the City to make a safer community.

Mayor Lomnicki said it is very important to move toward a solution, but it may be a solution the group has not yet identified.

Mayor Lomnicki adjourned the work session at 6:42 p.m.

Pat DuVal, City Recorder